HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

THE OCCUPATIONAL HEARING CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN

ROLE and RESPONSIBILITIES

28 Jan 2013

Learning Objectives

1. Identify the role of the OHC Technician as a team member of the Hearing Conservation Program

2. Describe the responsibilities of the OHC Technician

3. Describe the limitations of the OHC Technician duties

What Are Attributes of an OHC Technician?

Technical Knowledge

YES!

Passion for hearing conservation

YES!

Practical knowledge that can be transferred to workers

YES!

Expertise in Acoustics Audiology Noise Control Anatomy & Physiology

NO!

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CRITICAL ROLE in Hearing Conservation Program

The "FACE" of the HCP

- **See personnel first**
- **Fit HPDs**
- **Educate & motivate**
- **Answer questions**

Responsibilities

- **Certification**
- **Equipment**
- **Audiometric Hearing Testing**
- **Follow Up Care and Fit HPDs**
- **Hearing Conservation Education and Motivation**
- **Recordkeeping and Data Management**
- **Professional Behavior and Ethics**

Certification

HCP Certification

- → **Good for 5 years if . . .**
- → **Annually evaluated by OHC Audiologist**

Working Knowledge and Access to

- → **DOD 6055.12**
- → **OPNAVINST 5100.19/23**
- → **MCO 6260.1**
- → **NMCPHC Tech Manual**
- → **Local SOP**

Equipment

- **Verify Calibration**
  - **a. audiometer is current**
  - **b. test booth is current**
- **Perform daily**
  - **a. functional listening check**
  - **b. audiometer calibration**
- **Troubleshoot routine problems**
  - **a. test equipment**
  - **b. software**

Audiometric Hearing Testing

Pure Tone Air Conduction Testing

a.determine type or reason for test

b.ensure test accuracy and validity

c.enter accurate demographic data

Follow-up Tests

a. determine if STS

b. use appropriate referral protocols

c. update reference audiograms correctly

Other Tests Administered

Otoscopic Examination

Tympanometry

Follow – Up Care

Referrals to

a. audiologists

b. medical officers or IDCs

Counseling patients toward understanding

c. hearing test results

d. follow up procedures & requirements

e. proper fit & use of HPDs

f. compliance & behaviors that conserve hearing

Hearing Conservation Education and Motivation

NOISE & HEARING FACT

DISCUSS QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES

POC FOR HCP ANSWER QUESTIONS & REFER TO AUDIOLOGIST OR IH

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT OF HCP COMPLIANCE

ASSIST SUPERVISORS WITH COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Additional Duties

Recordkeeping and Data Management

a. documentation in health records

b. proper storage of forms and instructions

Monitor effectiveness of HCP

c. assist HCP manager/audiologist

d. report observations of compliance, etc

Professionalism

Professional interaction

a. **patients – rights, privacy, satisfaction**
b. **HCP team members**

High professional standards

c. **integrity**
d. **work habits – personal and work area**
e. **keep job skills current**

Responsibility Limitations

Conduct any type of audiometric testing other than pure tone air conduction testing & screening tympanometry

Interpret hearing test results re: diagnosis of type, cause & treatment of ear disease

Assume role of supervisor of audiometric monitoring

Independently train or certify other OHC technicians

Conduct noise surveys and analyses

Provide engineering or noise control solutions

Independently evaluate effectiveness of the HCP

Responsibilities to the Patients

- **Professional concern and interest**
- **Provide valid/accurate audiograms**
- **Ensure patient understands test purpose and follow-up results…not only say “You Passed”!**
- **Demonstrate proper HPD fit on each ear**
- **Motivate consistent HPD use both on/off duty**
- **Maintain professional work space**
- **Protect patient rights**

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ANY QUESTIONS ?